

# Comparisons of Job Characteristics

Focus Occupation: **Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**

Associated Occupation: **Physical Therapists (29-1123)**

[Compare Knowledge](#)

[Compare Skills](#)

[Compare Abilities](#)

[Compare Detailed Work Activities](#)

[Compare Tools and Technologies](#)

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

## Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 97

Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)

Associated Occupation: Physical Therapists (29-1123)

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Customer and Personal Service	11.3	18.9	18.4	0	Current knowledge level may be sufficient
Therapy and Counseling	3.8	18.9	15.0	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Education and Training	9.2	18.2	14.7	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Medicine and Dentistry	3.7	16.4	12.5	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Psychology	6.4	14.9	14.6	0	Current knowledge level may be sufficient
Biology	3.7	9.5	8.5	<	Expanded education and/or training may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 88

Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)

Associated Occupation: Physical Therapists (29-1123)

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Active Listening	11.0	14.4	11.5	<	A higher skill level may be required
Social Perceptiveness	9.1	12.2	11.8	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Time Management	8.9	12.2	7.6	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Service Orientation	7.9	11.5	10.8	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Coordination	9.1	11.2	10.2	0	Current skill level may be sufficient

Operations Analysis	5.0	10.5	4.3	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Persuasion	7.4	10.1	8.1	<	A higher skill level may be required
Science	4.5	9.6	5.9	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Abilities		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 92			
Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021) Associated Occupation: Physical Therapists (29-1123)					
Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation	
Problem Sensitivity	11.1	14.3	11.1	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Deductive Reasoning	10.6	14.0	10.1	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Inductive Reasoning	10.2	13.6	9.7	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Category Flexibility	9.0	10.8	10.1	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Static Strength	5.0	9.0	8.6	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Extent Flexibility	4.8	8.3	8.5	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Dynamic Strength	3.5	7.9	5.4	<<	Extensive improvement in abilities may be required
Stamina	4.0	7.9	6.6	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 90
Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021) Associated Occupation: Physical Therapists (29-1123)		
Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity	
Administer medications or treatments	46	
Apply traction	85	
Construct medical supportive devices	87	
Evaluate patient response to therapy	78	
Fit medical supportive devices	85	
Observe patient condition	48	
Plan therapy treatment program	77	
Position patient for therapy	70	
Take vital signs	56	

Use knowledge of medical terminology	40
Use massage therapy procedures	81
Use medical equipment in direct patient care	75
Use physical therapy equipment or materials	99
Work with persons with mental disabilities or illnesses	62

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus  
Occupation to Associated  
Occupation: 94

**Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**  
**Associated Occupation: Physical Therapists (29-1123)**

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
Acute care monitoring units and related products	22
Aerobic training equipment	47
Ambulation and transfer and positioning aids for the physically challenged	27
Blood pressure units and related products	11
Business function specific software	1
Cameras	2
Computer game or entertainment software	33
Computers	1
Content authoring and editing software	1
Diagnostic assessment and exam products for general use	21
Electrotherapy equipment	31
Finance accounting and enterprise resource planning ERP software	2
Gait training products	43
Heat and cold therapy products	29
Hydrotherapy products	33
Indicating and recording instruments	2
Industry specific software	1
Lamps	19
Medical exam size measuring devices	24
Neurological exam products	30
Orthopedic softgoods for lower extremity	33
Orthopedic softgoods for upper extremity and torso	35
Orthopedic traction supplies and accessories	40
Patient beds and accessories	30
Patient lifts	35
Patient transport products	18
Prosthetic devices or accessories and supplies	56
Reaching and gripping aids for the physically challenged	80
Rehabilitation exercise devices and equipment	24
Stethoscopes and related products	14
Vascular and compression therapy equipment and supplies	33

Weight and resistance training equipment	70
Work hardening equipment for rehabilitation or therapy	90

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.